

REMARKS

I. Current Status of the Application

Claims 1 – 3, 5 – 7, 9 – 13, 15 – 17, 19, and 20 were previously pending in the present application, with claim 1 as the sole independent claim and claims 11 – 13, 15 – 17, 19, and 20 withdrawn. By way of this amendment, claims 1, 5, 11 – 13, 15 – 17, 19, and 20 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, and 10 are currently amended. Claims 6 and 9 have been amended to include all the limitations from claim 1 as previously presented, while claims 2, 3, 7, 9, and 10 have been amended to change dependency. Further, new claims 21 – 23 have been added, which mirror claims 2, 3, and 10, respectively. By way of this amendment, claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, and 21 – 23 will be pending, with claims 6 and 9 independent. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 – 3, 5, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,858,144 (“Fariello”) in view of U.S. 4,786,999 (“Tanaka”).

Claims 6, 7, and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Further, the Office action has objected to the drawings. Specifically, the action asserts that the figures fail to show the receiving member.

The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections in view of the following remarks.

II. Remarks Regarding the Objection to the Drawings

The Office action has objected to the drawings for failing to show every feature of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Office action asserts that the “receiving member” is not shown in any of the drawings.

In the above amendment, all references to the “receiving member” have been removed. Accordingly, this element no longer appears in the claims. In light of this, the Applicant

respectfully requests that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

III. Remarks Regarding the § 103 Rejection of Claim 1

The Office action asserts that the combination of Fariello and Tanaka renders claim 1 of the present application obvious. However, the Office action has also indicated that claims 6, 9 (both depending from claim 1), and 7 (depending from claim 6) are allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant has requested that each of claims 6 and 9 be amended to include all of the limitations from claim 1. In addition, claims 2, 3, and 10 have been amended to depend from claim 6 rather than from claim 1. Further, new claims 21 – 23, which mirror claims 2, 3, and 10 and depend from claim 9, have been added. Finally, all withdrawn claims have been canceled.

In light of these amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. The Applicant earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202.220.4256 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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